ALABAMA BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MINUTES

OF THE

SEVENTH ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

Harmony Grove Baptist

ASSOCIATION,

Held with the

OAK GROVE CHURCH, FAYETTE CO. ALA.,

OCTOBER 15, 16 AND 17, A. D. 1898.

OFFICERS:

Q. D. Haney, Moderator, Eldridge.
J. W. Rogers, Clerk, Eldridge.

The next Session will be held with Elridge Church, Walker County, Ala., commencing on Saturday before the 3d Sabbath in October, A. D. 1899.

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Johnson.

New River—J. D. Sheres, A. W. Killingsworth, J. C. Todd, H. R. Sides, and W. J Killingsworth.

New Hope—D. H. Shiry, A. H. Franks, and A. Y. Aston.

Oak Grove—C. S. Taylor, W. A. Weeks, and W. E. Taylor.

Pleasant Grove—A. B Batson and W. W. Dobbins.

Siloam—R. Z. Erwin, G. W. Couch, and J. G. Brooks.

Crews—J. T. Hill, J. J. Otts, and Wm. Bussey.

Sulligent—W. B. Mattison, A. L. Hill, and W. A. Comer.

Union—W. H. Stack, J. D. Arnold and J. C. Wade.

Winfield—J. T. Spann, H. L. Atkins, S. W. Moss, and J. M. Spann.

READING CLERKS.

R L. Francis and D. W Dickenson.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

The Association was permanently organized by the election of Q. D. Haney, Moderator, and J. W. Rogers, Clerk.

COMMITTEE ON ORDER OF BUSINESS.

A. W. Killingsworth, J. M. Spann and C. C. Kelly.

DEVOTIONAL COMMITTEE.

Wm. Shaw, W. B. Mattison, W. T, Colburn, and Deacons of Oak Grove Church.

REPORT ON ORDER OF BUSINESS ADOPTED.

1. Devotional Exercises.
2. Read Constitution; Articles of Faith and Rules of Decorum.
3. Presentation of letters from the Churches.
4. Election of Officers.
5. Call for Petitionary letters.
6. Invite visiting Ministers, not delegates, to seats.

7. Receive correspondence, also return correspondence.
8. On Missions.
9. On Sabbath Schools.
10. Hear Treasurer's Report.
11. Appoint Treasurer.
12. Appoint Special Committees.
    (1.) On Religious Exercises.
    (2.) On Documents.
    (3.) On Nominations.
    (4.) On Finance.
    (5.) Call for Report of District Meetings.
    (6.) On Temperance.
    (7.) On Religious Literature.
    (8.) On Orphan's Home.
    (9.) On Prayer and Prayer Meetings.
    (10.) On Ministerial Education.
    (11.) On Miscellaneous Business.
13. Read and correct Minutes, call Roll and Adjourn.

The stand was filled at 2 p. m. by Elders W. J. Kirk and J. A. Trim.

Appointed Committee on Sunday School, J. T. Johnson, J. D. Sheres and Ed. Knight.

Adjourned to meet at 8 a m. Monday.

SUNDAY PROCEEDINGS.

10 a. m. Devotional exercises conducted by the Moderator, Q. D. Haney.

Called for report on Sunday School. The report was received and discussed by J. T, Johnson, R. L. Francis, J. E. Cox and C. C. Kelly. The Report was adopted as follows:

"It is a gratifying fact there is a growing public interest being manifested in Sunday School work by the best material in our churches, At the same time there are many even of our church members who do not place that stress on this work that it deserves.

The statistics of our church membership and Sunday School tell a sad truth in regard to this. A vast number of our church members do not attend these services. This ought not so to be. The children are generally willing to go, but we are not; we frame frivolous excuses and stay away until our children have grown up and gone from our homes, probably never to live with us again, without that religious training which we might so easily have given.

We say we frame frivolous excuses: yes, this is true. Some say too old, some too tired, some not competent: well, if we are old, this service will make us feel younger, if tired, it will rest us; if incompetent, this above all other reasons is one why we should attend the Sunday School services. It is here we meet the innocent and cheerful to study God's word, that word which says, "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet." We need this lamp; so do the children, as they and we are traveling a pathway that is new to us. We can learn to love this Sunday School service; and when we do this it is easy to teach the children to love it. This accomplished, the service becomes a pleasure instead of a burden. The wonderful helps we now have, so wisely and systematically prepared for carrying on the Sunday School work, demand our earnest influence in attending regularly and helping the children to understand what they are, and what they should be.

Your committee would earnestly recommend that we make a greater effort in the present Associational year for the building up of this Sunday School interest, and hope that at our next meeting, a year hence, we can report a wonderful advance along this line of Christian duty.

We can scarcely conceive what we might accomplish by an honest effort in this great undertaking."

J. T. JOHNSON, Chairman.

Sunday School Executive Committee.—R. L. Francis, J. T. Johnson, D. W. Dickenson, A. B. Batson, and W. A. Comer.

At 11 a. m. the stand was filled by Elder J. F. Willis. Text Matt. XXVIII, 19-20. The sermon was Biblical, Theological and Baptistic. The brother was followed by Rev. Q. D. Haney in a short talk; after which a collection was taken up for Rev. J. E. Cox, from the New River Association, amounting to $14.85.

Adjourned 5 minutes.

1 p. m. preaching in the house by Rev. Robert Jones, of Bangor. Text Acts IV, 20.

Preaching at the arbor by Elder J. W. Rogers. Text I. Cor. XIII, 8. "Charity never faileth,"

Adjourned until 8 a. m. Monday.

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MONDAY, OCT. 17, 1898.

9:20 a. m. Devotional Exercises conducted by Q. D. Haney, moderator. Scriptural lesson II. Cor. V chapter. The Association was called to order by the moderator.

Resolved, That we amend the report of the Committee on Order of Business, by substituting the order as found in our own minutes of 1895 or 1896

C. C. KELLY.

Called for petitionary letters.

Invited visiting ministers to seats.

APPOINTMENT OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES.

ON DOCUMENTS.

H. L. Adkins, J. T. Spann, and J. T. Perry.

ON NOMINATIONS.

G. W. Castlebury, J. A. Warren, and J. J. Otts.

ON FINANCE.

W. J. Killingsworth, W. A. Weeks, D. S. Morrow.

STANDING COMMITTEES.

ON TEMPERANCE.

W. J. Shaw, W. H. Mills, and A. H. Franks.

ON STATE MISSIONS.

E. D. Kelley, Wm. Candle, and W. J. Flynn.

ON HOME MISSIONS.

I. Estill, Richard Sides, and D. S. Tucker.

ON FOREIGN MISSIONS.

J. W. Rogers, C. C. Kelley, and J. M. Roberts.

ON EDUCATION.

R. L. Francis, D. W. Dickenson, and W. F. Tucker.

ON RELIGIOUS LITERATURE.

C. C. Kelley, C. S. Taylor, and A. W. Killingsworth.

ON PRAYER AND PRAYER MEETING.

J. C. Todd, W. W. Dobbins, and W. H. Stacks.

RECEIVED CORRESPONDENCE.

From the Yellow Creek—Elder J. A. Trim.

From the New River—J. F. Willis and J. E. Cox.

RETURNED CORRESPONDENCE.

To the Yellow Creek—I. Estill, C. S. Taylor, R. W. Clark.

To the New River—D. W. Dickenson, W. W. Dobbins, H. R. Sides, and A. B. Batson.

To the North River—J. W. Rogers, W. J. Killingsworth, S. H. Key, and Q. D. Haney.

Resolved that we open up correspondence with the Clear Creek.

To the Clear Creek—J. W. Rogers, R. L. Francis, C. C. Kelley, W. M. Waford and Q. D. Haney.

COMMITTEE ON ORPHANS HOME.

Q. D. Haney, W. H. Mills, and J. Estill.

RESOLVED, That all committees, with the exception of special committees, be allowed until the next session of the

Association to make their reports.

C. C. Kelly called for Treasurer's Report.

REPORT.

Received of Finance Committee.

For Minutes	$21.25
For Associational Purposes	9.35
For Associational Missions	2.50
For State Missions	.50
For Home Missions	.86
For Foreign	1.45
For Orphans Home	1 00
By Collection for Missionary	7.90
By Collection for State Missions	1.68
By Collection for Foreign Missions	1.68
TOTAL AMOUNT RECEIVED	$47.17
Paid for Printing 300 Minutes	$18.00
Paid Orphans Home	3.69
Paid State Missions	2.11
Paid Foreign Miasions	2.06
Paid Home Missions	.80
Paid for Express Money Orders	.20
Paid for one Post-office Money Order	.10
Paid for Mailing Minutes	.58
Paid Q. D. Haney	10.40
Paid Clerk	9 35
TOTAL	$47.29

Appointed J. W. Rogers Treasurer.

REPORT OF DISTRICT MEETING.

The Eighth Session of the Second District will be held with Salem Church, Crews Station, commencing Friday before the 2nd Sunday in Aug. 1899. Introductory sermon by R. W. Clark, D W. Dickenson, alt.

QUERIES.

1st. What is meant by this Scripture; Genesis XLIX, 10th verse? Opened by W. T. Candle.

2nd. What is the best method in organizing our churches? Opened by D. W. Dickenson.

3rd. Does God use his ministers or means in His hand. in the Salvation of souls? Opened by J. G. Brooks.

4th. What is meant by the unjust Steward? Luke XVI chapter. Opened by I. Estill.

M. V. Owens, Modr. A. H. Franks, Clerk.

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The Report on Education was read by R L. Francis, and discussed by R. L. Francis, A. B. Batson, Robert Jones and Elder J. E. Cox.

By motion the regular order of business was suspended to receive Rev. Robert Jones from the Cullman Association.

Adjourned for dinner

AFTERNOON SESSION.

1:10 p. m. Devotional exercises conducted by A. W. Killingsworth.

The body was called to order by the moderator.

And the discussion on Education continued by Q. D. Haney.

Your Committee on Education report that we note with pleasure the increasing interest taken by our people in educational affairs as is manifested by the establishment of schools of high grade at various places within our Association, and the increased attendance at said schools. Cognizant of the fact that education produces a development of all the various faculties of the soul, and gives it greater capacity, a more comprehensive grasp of the purposes and duties of life; and realizing further that this is a progressive

age in which all institutions are pressing forward to higher planes of existence and of work; and further that other denominations are alive to this pressing cause, it behooves us as Baptist, to keep abreast with this progressive age. We cannot afford to neglect so important a matter, and thus lose that increased power of work and of influence which comes through an educated ministry and laity. We therefore advise that under the increased conveniences and faculties for learning, the Baptist people educate their children to the very highest degree that their circumstances will admit of. R. L. FRANCIS, Chairman.

REPORT ON NOMINATIONS.

Elder R. W. Clark to preach the opening sermon at the next session of this body, I. Estill, alt. Q. D. Haney to go to the Baptist State Convention, And we recommend that every church help to pay his expenses.

G. W. CASTLEBURY, Chairman.

A collection was taken in cash and pledges amounting to $7.25.

REPORT ON DOCUMENTS,

We, your committee, report that we have examined all the letters from the different churches, and find one request from Eldridge Church asking us to meet with them next year. And we recommend that the Association meet with Eldridge Church next year. We also find a query from Siloam Church.

Query: Has an Evangelist the right to use any authority over the churches without the consent of the church or moderator?

We understand that a church is an independent body, and has the right to transact business for herself, and we recommend the body to table the query.

We also find a request from Hopewell Church asking the churches of this Association to aid them in building a

church house. We recommend that the delegates lay this matter before the churches.

H. L. Adkins, Chairman.

REPORT ON FINANCE.

For Minutes	$17.05
State Missions	9.95
Orphans Home	2 10
Associational Purposes	8.80
Foreign Missions	1 00
Total	$38 90

W J. Killingsworth. Chairman.

Resolved, that we change the time of preaching the Introductory or Commencement Sermon from 10 a. m, to 7:30 p. m., and that the Association meet promptly at 10 a. m. and proceed to business. J. C. Todd.

REPORT OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

We employed Elder Q. D. Haney to do missionary work in our Association at $25.00 per month, and he has faithfully labored in our Association for three months, and we see from his report to this committee that his labors have been abundantly blessed, and we recommend that we employ a missionary for three months in next year Brethren, your committee feels like this work is one of the most important before us, and one we all love and cherish. It is the work of the Master; therefore we recommend that the Association employ Brother Haney, or some other Brother for at least three months in the next Associational year. We have paid Brother Haney $62.65 as will be shown by his report hereto attached.

J. M. Spann, Chairman.

REPORT OF MISSIONARY TO THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

Dear Brethren, I have labored three months for which I have received $52.70 (dollars), leaving a balance due of

$22.30 (dollars.) My work has been among the churches as you directed. I have not established any new churches. There has been 32 additions to the churches that I have visited and held meetings with the pastors.

Respectfully submitted, Q. D. HANEY, Missionary.

Executive Committee —J. M. Spann, W. J. Killingsworth, C. C. Kelley, J. A. Northcut, and V. A. Taylor.

Resolved, That Uncle Jesse Underwood, and six sisters (or seven) in the bonds of this body (all of whom are Baptists) be recognized by us as a part and parcel of us, for the reason they are destitute of a church in their community,

Q. D. HANEY.

REPORT OF SUNDAY SCHOOL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

Resolved that all the Baptist Sunday Schools within the bounds of Harmony Grove Association be constituted a Sunday School Association, which shall convene annually. Resolved further that Harmony Grove Association be divided into five Sunday School Districts as follows:

1st. District.—Bethel, Eldridge, Spring Hill and Hopewell.

2nd. District,—Pleasant Grove, New River, and Union.

3rd. District.—Harmony Grove, New Hope, Siloam and Winfield.

4th. District.—Guin, Oak Grove, and Hamilton.

5th. District.—Sulligent, Crews, Blanchard, and Concord,

Resolved further, that the chair appoint one field worker for each district, whose duty it shall be to visit all the churches of his district and organize Sunday Schools where there are none.

Furthermore, that the chair appoint a President of the Sunday School Association, whose duty it shall be to supervise the field workers, fill vacancies therein, and organize the first annual convention.

Furthermore, that the proceedings of said convention and subsequent ones be spread upon the minutes of the next ensuing meeting of the Harmony Grove Association.

Furthermore, that said President and field workers shall report their work together with statistics concerning the Sunday Schools to the Annual Convention.

R. L FRANCIS, Chairman.

SABBATH SCHOOL FIELD WORKERS.

1st. District.—A. B. Batson.
2nd. District.—J. C. Todd.
3rd. District.—M. V. Owens.
4th. District.—J. T. Johnson.
5th. District.—J. T. Hill.
President—R. L. Francis.

$3.00 In cash turned over to Q. D. Haney, the delegate to the Baptist State Convention.

By motion, appointed a committee of three to confer with the committees from New River and North River Associations with regard to erecting tomb stones at the graves of Revs. D. W. Andrews and L B. Harbin.

Committee—E. D. Kelley, A. B. Batson and A. W. Killingsworth.

Resolved, That we tender our heart felt thanks to Oak Grove Church and community for their unsurpassed hospitality shown us during our stay among them.

J. A. WORREN.

Resolved, That the Clerk have as many minutes printed as he can for the minute fund, and that he have the Associational fund for his services.

C. S. TAYLOR.

By motion, disposed of the reading of the minutes and calling the roll. Q. D. HANEY, Moderator.

J. W. ROGERS, Clerk.

NOTE.—The churches will please send more Associational fund next year. Some sent none this year.

J. W. ROGERS, Clerk.

Constitution.

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1. This Association shall be composed of members chosen by the different churches in our union on producing their letters.

2. The Association shall have power to enact and carry out Missionary purposes in all of their bearings, yet so that churches and individual members are left free and giving or withholding shall not be a bar of fellowship.

3. To give churches the best advice she can in all matters of difficulty and if the union be broken between any of the sister churches to inquire into the cause of the breach and use her best endeavor to remove the difficulty, but if the breach cannot be repaired to withdraw from any church which she may look upon as being unsound in principle or immoral in practice, until the same can be reclaimed,

4. The churches in our union shall transmit to every annual session of the body a written communication specifying the names of delegates, their number enrolled, received by baptism, letter, restored, dismissed, excluded and deceased since the last report, and each church shall report to each annual session the work done in Sabbath Schools and Prayer Meetings, with the number of ordained Ministers belonging to them, with postoffice.

5. The churches are entitled to representation as follows: For every fifty or less three lay delegates, and one lay delegate for every twenty-five above fifty, together with their regular ordained ministers, who are standing delegates,

6 The Association shall elect a Moderator and Clerk

annually, who shall be chosen by a majority present.

7. Churches may be admitted into this body, who petition by letter and delegates are found to be orthodox and orderly, which shall be manifested by the Moderator giving them the right-hand of fellowship.

8. Every query sent to the Association by a church shall be considered.

9. Voting shall be confined exclusively to the body in all acts respecting their internal concern.

10. The body shall not adjourn any session until all business of the session is finished.

11. The Minutes shall be read and approved and signed by the Mederator and Clerk before adjournment.

12. Amendments to the Constitution may be made at regular session of the body by a majority present.

Articles of Faith.

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1. We believe in only one true and living God, and that there are three persons in the God-head, the Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit, these three are one.

2. We believe the scriptures of the Old and New Testament are the word of God and the only rule of faith and practice.

3. We believe in the fall of Adam and the imputation of his sin to his posterity, in the corruption of human nature and the inability of man to recover himself from his lost state.

4. We believe in the doctrine of election through sanctification of the spirit and belief of the truth.

5. We believe that sinners are justified in the sight of God only through the merits of Jesus Christ.

6. We believe that all will be preserved in grace and none will be lost.

7. We believe that good workers are the fruits of faith and that they follow justification and are evidence of a gracious state.

8. We believe in the resurrection of the dead and general judgment, and that the joys of the righteous and the perishment of the wicked will be eternal.

Gospel Order:

1. We believe that a church is a congregation of Christ's baptised disciples united in the belief of what he has said and covenanting to do what he has commanded.

2. We believe that Jesus Christ is the great head of the church and law giver, and that the government is with the church, and that the discipline of the church is intended for the reclaiming of those members who are disorderly in principle or practice and must be kept up for the glory of God and the unity of the churches,

3. We believe that baptism and the Lord's Supper are ordinances of the church of Jesus Christ and are to be kept up until his second coming.

4. We believe that baptism and immersion are equivalent terms and that none but believers in Christ are subjects for scriptural baptism.

5. We believe that none but those regularly baptised church members have a right to commune at the Lord's table.

6. We believe that none have the right to administer the ordinances of the church but Ministers of the Gospel, regularly ordained to that office.

Rules of Decorum.

1. The Association shall be opened and closed by prayer.

2. To expedite business, committees may be appointed at the discretion of the Association.

3. But one person shall speak at the time, and he shall rise and address the Moderator, the Moderator being Judge of Order.

4. No member shall be interrupted while speaking, unless he depart from the subject, or use words of personal reflection.

5. Every motion made and seconded shall come under consideration of the Association, unless withdrawn by him who made it.

6. Every case taken up by the Association shall be decided, or withdrawn before another is offered.

7. All cases, after due consideration, the Moderator shall take the question by yeas and nays, or otherwise, and the decision thus made shall be announced to the Moderator immediately.

8. No person shall leave the house, while in session, without leave of the Moderator.

9. No person shall speak twice on the same subject without leave of body.

10. The appellation of Brother shall be used in our addresses one to another.

11. The Moderator shall be entitled to the same privileges as any other member, provided he appoints another to his seat while speaking, but shall not vote unless the Association be equally divided.

12. Any member violating the above rules may be reproved as the Association may think proper, only on the day the offence shall have occurred.

FINANCIALE XHIBIT OF HARMONY GROVE BAPTIST ASSOCIATION. 1898

CHURCHES	MISSIONS				Orphan's Home	Minutes	Pastor's Salary	School Expenses	Total	Value of Property Estimated
	State	Home	Foreign	Association Fund						
Bethel	$	$	$	$ 25	$	$ 50	$	$	$ 75	200 00
Blanchard			50			60			1 10	
Eldridge	11 50	50	50	1 00	1 00	1 50	113 75	6 00	135 75	500 00
Guin	3 75					2 00			5 75	800 00
Harmony Grove				25		1 75			2 00	300 00
Hopewell				50		85	16 75		18 10	325 00
Hamilton	3 00					1 75			4 75	575 00
New River				50		1 50			2 00	400 00
New Hope	2 50			50		1 75			4 75	400 00
Oak Grove	5 00					1 50			6 50	200 00
Pleasant Grove				45		1 00			1 45	200 00
Siloom				30		1 00			1 30	100 00
Crews		2 50				75		5 00	8 25	500 00
Sulligent	10 71					1 00			11 71	100 00
Union				50		50		Reprs	1 00	800 00
Winfield						2 50		10 00	12 50	100 00
Spring Hill	Not Rep									
Concord	Not Rep									
Total	36 46	3 00	1 00	4 25	1 00	20 45	130 50	21 00	217 66	5500

STATISTICS OF HARMONY GROVE BAPTIST ASSOCIATION. 1898

CHURCH.	COUNTY.	PASTOR.	CLERK.	CLERK'S POST OFFICE	Last Reported Membership	Increase by			De-crease by			Membership Present.
						Baptism	Letter	Restoration.	Letter.	Exclusion	Death	
Bethel	Marion	A. B. Batson	W. M. Wafford	Texas					1		1	16
Blanchard	Marion	R. W. Clark.	J. W. Clark.	Barnesville	37	2	1	1	8		3	33
Eldridge	Walker	J. W. Rogers	F. D. McLain	Eldridge	112	2	9	1	3			118
Guin	Marion	D. W Dickenson	J. A. Warren	Guin	124	3	2		4	1	1	123
Harmony Grove	Marion	J. A. Trim	J. H. Erwin	Winfield	65	8	3	4	7	1	1	71
Hopewell	Fayette	J. W. Rogers	W. F. Tucker	Glen Allen		2						35
Hamilton	Marion	R. W. Clark.	J. T. Johnson	Hamilton	22	11	14		2	1		44
New River	Fayette	Q. D. Haney	J. D. Sherer	Dry Creek	66		1		2	2		63
New Hope	Marion	J. A. Trim	A. H. Franks	Winfield	63	3	4			2	1	67
Oak Grove	Fayette	A. W. Green	W. A. Weeks	Winfield	37	6				1		42
Pleasant Grove	Fayette	Jas. Townsen	W. E. L. Wyers	Coal Bluff	36	1	3		2	4		40
Siloam	Fayette	J. A. Trim	J. W. Couch	Winfield	30						1	29
Crews	Lamar	D. W. Dickenson	J. T. Hill	Crews Station	21	9	3					33
Sulligent	Lamar	J. W. Rogers	W. B. Mattison	Sulligent	55	1	1		1	3	1	52
Union	Fayett	W. J. Akins	J. W. R. Jones.	New River	15	1	2					18
Winfield	Marion	A. N. Reeves	J. P. McGaho	Winfield	98	1	4			3		93
Spring Hill	Not Rep.											57
Concord	Not Rep.											
Total					781	56	53	6	36	18	9	934